Old and New Baseball

Joe Cantillon Says the Players of Today Do Not Belong In Same Class With Stars of Auld Lang Syne

BY BILLY MURPHY.

"Let any baseball man of the country of the present day type pick out a ball club from players who have come up in the last fifteen years and I will pick one from the old school and presume that they play under the present-day rules," said Joe Cantillon, the other day. Then we can leave it to the judgment of the people who have watched baseball for the past twenty-five years and I believe the players of today will find that they are not in a class with the old school There were twenty or thirty of

the old school sluggers who hit .340 to 350 for fifteen or twenty years and mind you most of them saw the spitter and all the Woods and Johnsons, but the old boys' batting averages still stand up near the The spitball pitchers did not stop the batting of good old Honus Wagner, Larry Lajoie, Fred Clarke, Jimmy Collins, George Davis and Lou Criger. Any of the old boys that stuck until the spitter came hit just as hard, just as often and just as far as the young fellows.

The old-timers taught the new ones how to play first base deep. The old pitchers taught the present generation to cover first and back up plays. The old-time taught the waste ball. In fact, anything that we are trying in the game today was pulled off twenty-five years ago.

OLD AND NEW ONE COMPARED BY "VET."

"There are a great many arguments over old and new baseball between the players of today and the few of us that are left from the old As a member of both classes, I make the assertion, flatly, that baseball has not advanced in recent years, from the brainy orplaying standpoint.

"I have been in a baseball uniform every playing day since 1881, and during that time have seen many stars come and go. Some came with brilliant radiance and died away as thers came slowly, but developed into some of the greatest stars the game has ever

"The rules of the game have been changed in a great many ways, and all of the changes have been of a nature to benefit the latter-day players. And let it be known that all the changes in the rules for the past twenty-five years have been suggested by some member of the old school. I cannot recall a single player who in the last ten years has introduced anything new in the line of playing or has offered any new suggestion that would really improve the game from a playing or a rule making standpoint.

"The players of twenty-five years ago were just as nervy, just as fast and just as brainy as they are to-They were better fighters and had far more interest in their play than the athletes of today. Formerly one never saw the members of the teams that were to play a series standing around together chattering and laughing and visiting before the game started. ery player in those days hated evman on the club to be played that day, and when the two captains came together to consult with the umpire it was like two bull-terriers turned loose from the benches, and once the game started it was for blood and not for aver-

GASTON AND ALPHONSE. BALL OF PRESENT DAY.

"There was little consolation in those days for the player that had four hits if the club lost. There was not so much of the Gaston and Alpronse stuff in the olden times. There wasn't so much of this "excuse me, dear fellow" business. The old school of infielders made the base runners turn each base at disadvantage by standing on the inside corners of the bags, and there was no apology if by "accident" they got in a fellow player's way.

There is not one trick in the game today that was not pulled off twenty-five years ago. They bunted then; they used the hit and run; they stole more bases and had better catchers.

"I will admit that the new school has brought the squeeze play into the game. I will also admit that it is the rottenest play in baseball when it fails. Furthermore, it is an admission from the player who cannot hit and when the manager asks for it he shows that he has lost confidence in the hitting of the player asked to squeeze,

"Imagine some of the old boys such as Dalrymple, Brouthers, Roger Conner, Anson, Pete Browning, Tip O'Nell, Mike Kelly, Dave Orr, Mike Tiernan, Kid Gleason, Jack Rowe, Bill Lange, Larry Lajote, Ed Delehanty, Jake Beckley and a hundred others of years ago. Can you imagine any of this bunch equeezing in a runner from third



and the pitcher sixty feet away? Who today can best the old school of catchers, such as Mike Kelly, Silver Flint, Doc Bushons, Dick Buckley, Charles Nagel, Snyder, Duke Farrell, Clements, Buck Ewing, Charley Bennett, Charley Ganzel, Tom Daily, Jim McGuire, Kittridge, Murphy Connie Mack,

Criger, Wilbur Robinson and many "Who today has more speed at pitching than Jim Whitney, John Clarkson, Kid Nichols, Amos Rusic, Tony Mullane, Long John Healey, Bob Carruthers, Old Cy Young, Nat Hudson, Martin Duke and the left-handers such as Mat Kilroy. Breitenstein, Getzein, Ramsey, Van Haltren and McGill. Then we had the foxy pitchers such as Cuppy. Tim Keefe, Clark Griffith, John Ward, Radbourne and Charles

pitching the slow curves and the straight ones twenty-five years ago. "Our old-time first basemen were fair. There was only a few of them as there were but few big league clubs and scarcely any minor leagues. The old-time first sackers of note were: Charles Comiskey, Cap Anson, Dan Brouthers, Roger Connor, Perry Scoops Carey, Jake Beckley, Long John Elley, Pat Tebeau, Dave Orr

Sweeney These old boys were

and Virtue. The second basemen of the old guard compare favorable and in my estimation were better than those of today. Of course John Evers and Eddie Collins are stars one can

TY COBB, at left. Eddie Collins, at right.

compare with any one, but the oldtimers show up pretty weil with Fred Pfeffer, Bid McPhee, Fred Dunlap, Jack Farrell, Bob Rowe, Kid Gleason, Billy Robinson, Childs. Reitz and Lajole,

'Our old-time shortstops were a thousand miles ahead of any of the shortstops of today. Herman Long was the king of all the shortstops. Hugh Jennings, Hans Wagner, Glassock, Ned Williamson, Hill Gleason, George Davis, Ed Mc-Kean and Bob Wallace, were all players of high quality and without peers today.

We also had a few good oldtimers at third base in Jerry Denny, Tom Burns, Billy Nash, Artie Latham, Benny Lyons Carpenter, White, Pickney, Jimmy Collins, John McGraw and Tommy Leach.

The outfielders of the old school were brainier, faster, smarter, bet-ter throwers and all around superior athletes to the men of today. My star, and I have seen them all, is Tommy McCarthy. Then we had Ned Hanlon, Bill Lang, Hugh Duffy, George Van Haltren, Billy Hamilton, Billy Sunday, Fogarty, Curt Welch, Gore, Dalrymple, Big Ed Delehanty, Wilmot. Elmer Foster, Fred Clarke, Roy Thomas, Pete Browning, Tip O'Neill, Walker, Halsting, Hoy and many others."

in 1904 by Joe Sugden of the Browns, in 1906 by Jock O'Conner of the Erowns, in 1907 by Frank Bowerman of New York, in 1909 by

RUNNING BASES BY YANK CREW **IMITATES CUBS**

Although the Yankees have been playing better baseball than they have played in several years, there is something about their style that appears to have been overlooked by a great many of the critics. Frank Chance has found it possible to install the old working system used so successfully by the Cubs for the first time since he has taken charge of the New York American League Club.

It may be recalled by many of those who were accustomed to watch that perfect baseball machine, the Cubs, in action, that they played the most daring game of any of the clubs of their time; there have been few clubs since that have attempted the almost reckless style they employed. At the time a great many exponents of the so-called "inside baseball" stuff asserted the system of signals used by the Cubs was the most complete ever evolved.

Forrest Cady of the Red Sox and also by George Gibson of Pitts-

In the pitching line Charles Radbourne, with Providence, in 1883 worked in 37 consecutive games and won 28. In 1881 he pitched 72 games in one season-a record that was duplicated in 1889 by John Clarkson, then with Boston. Keefe, pitching for the Giants in 1889, and Marquard, pitching for the same team in 1912, are tied with 17 consecutive victories in one

SWEENEY'S RECORD.

MANY OPPORTUNITIES

FOR MAKING RECORDS

Charles Sweeney, pitching for Providence against Boston in 1883, struck out 21 batsmen. Amos Ruste, in 1892, gave 261 bases on balls in one season. In 1875 A. G. Spalding pitched 63 games and got an average of .890 for the sea-In 1904 Rube Waddell, then with the Athletics, struck out 343 batsmen in one season. Frank Chance, in 1910, while first

basing for the Cubs, took unto him-

self the remarkable record of .996

for the season. Jiggs Donahue former first baseman of the White Sox, holds the other three records in the first basing line. In 1907 he accepted the highest number of chances in one game, while in 1906 he had but one chance in one game. In 1995 Lajoic of the Naps turned in the record fielding percentage for second basemen, .990. Lobert of the Phillies holds the third basing record, having acquired .976 in 1912. Turner of the Naps grabbed 973 while shortstopping in 1910 Ladole in 1908 accepted 988 chances, Collins of the Red Sox ac-

accepted 955 charges in 1892. In outfielding Frank Schulte of the Cubs hung on a record of .992 in 1908 in right field; Patsy Dougherty of the White Sox (1906) and Fred Clarke, Pirates (1907), are tied with 287 at left fielding, while Harry Ray, Cleveland (1904). Amos Strunk, Athletics (1912), and Tommy Leach, Cubs (1913) ore tied with ,940 at center field-

cepted 501 chances at third in 1899,

and Allen, the Phillies' shortstop.

FED CLARKE'S FEAT.

Clarke of the Pirates made four assists from the outfield in one game in 1910 and had 10 putouts in one nine-inning game in 1911, both being record performances. George McBride, the Washington shortstop, enjoys the distinction of being the only infielder who ever

GREATEST TEAM FAILS TO DRAW

and world's champion baseball team a good money-making propo-

Ninety-nine out of every 100 fans would venture the opinion that if there is any money to be made in baseball a team occupying such an enviable position in the baseball world should be the one to reap the richest rewards that the baseball field affords. Yet the fact is that the Philadelphia Athletics. champions of the American League and monarchs of the baseball world, are playing to slim and disinterested crowds this year.

Followers of baseball are wondering at this strange condition of affairs. The Athletics are admittedly the best team in the country today. They have one of the greatest infields ever put together, a strong outfield, exceptional catchers and a great pitching staff. Added to this they have Connie Mack for manager

They have everything that should go to make a big paying attraction. yet this year the fans of the Quaker City are not warming up to the team. All kinds of reasons have been advanced, but not any seem to fit the case. It has been suggested that the fans are tired of seeing a sure-thing team, as they regard it. in action. This has been true in the past, but hardly holds good

The Athletics are having strenuous struggles. They are playing the finest kind of ball and earning every victory, yet the crowds have not been forthcoming. There is no Federal League competition and the Phillies have not seen going at any more rapid rate than the Athletics. Therefore it cannot be set down to

competition. Last fall the Athletics handled their world's series ticket arrangements finely, and there was no dissatisfaction in the Quaker City, as there has been in the past in some of the cities. It is patent, therefore that the failure of the fans to respond to the Athletics is due not to any ill will that they might have over the ticket matters.

Whatever it is, the officials of the club are plainly worried, and are at a loss to place their hands on the trouble. It is one of those inexplicable problems that those who cater to the public frequently encounter. It may be that the the race and make the Athletics play superb ball to catch up later the season. They are likely to have this wish gratified, but the question is: Will they draw the

O'Loughlin Thinks New Rule for Coachers Will Liven Game

Pans are seeing big league baseball players display more brains and pepper on the base lines because of the new rule forbidding coachers to touch base runners rounding third, thinks Umpire "Silk" O'Loughlin. "I know that lots of the old timers are against the rule," says Silk, "but in my opinion that rule is going to liven up base runners, and consequently liven up the games. It's going to make the base runners do their own

thinking, too. Fans needn't fear that O'Loughlin will ever interpret the new rule as strictly as was done in a Federal League game recently when a man was alled out after he had knocked a home run into the bleachers, simply be-

cause the coacher patted him on the back as he passed third. "The rule was never meant to be interpreted as technically and stricty as all that," declares O'Loughlin. "It was only meant to stop having coachers forcibly detain base runners at third and practically do all the thinking for the runner."

McGraw's "Keep Them Throwing" Being Outdone by the Reds

Charlie Herzog seems to be stretching a favorite axiom of McGraw's to the very limit. Jawn J. aiways says. "Keep them throwing," meaning, of course, to take daring chances for another base. Herzog is going farther, and, with Moran as the chief protagonist, is constantly trying for a flock of bases. Cobb style. Again and again this spring Moran has come all the way from second on an infield out, and not long ago he came home from first on a single. The nerve play has won nearly every time, and even when a runner has been headed off the man following on the track has advanced so far that he had a great chance to score on any play immediately after. The machine-like, solemnly uniform systems practiced so much around the circuits in the past have, apparently, got the fielders, both inside and outside the diamond, to thinking in terms of one base only. When a nervy runner makes a sudden dash, they are bewildered, embarrassed, and actually act as if they had been deeply wronged. They sail the ball to the place where the runner was last heard of Herzog's men continue that sort of stuff, it will be necessary, when dealing with them, to adopt Lesson 56 of the Baseball Text Book, which says: "Always throw to the base ahead of the runner, but if the runner is Cobb, throw three bases ahead of him.

went through a game without having one chance to clutch the ball. In the clubbing line Hugh Duffy's record of 438 for one season. made in 1894, is the mark the star batters must shoot at. Ty Cobb of the Pigers made 248 hits in 1911. Brown, playing with Louisville in 1892, was at bat 658 times in one season. The Phillies, back in the late ninetics, made 30 hits in one nine-inning game off John Wadsworth of Louisville.

Clarence Beaumont of the Pirates got six hits in six times up in while Ed Delehanty of the Phillies got four home runs and a single in five times up off Terry. the Chicago pitcher, in 1896, Buck Freeman, the old Washington player, hammered out 25 home runs in one season, the next best achievement in this line having been by Frank Schulte of the Cubs, who nnexed 21 circuit swats in 1911. ATHLETICS AND RED SOK.

The Athletics and Red Sox battled in a 24-inning game in 1906

that ended 4 to 1 in favor of the Athletics. Barrett of Detroit played in 162 games in 1904. The Providence team in 1884 won 29 consecutive games. The White Sox, in 1906, won 19 in a row. Chicago scored 18 runs in one inning against Detreit in 1882. Ty Cobb scored 147 runs in one season, 1911. Harry Stovey of the Athletics stole 156 bases in 1888.

In 1912 the Red Sox, by winning 105 games and finishing with an average of ,691, hung up the best average in the American League. The Boston club of 1875. which won 71 games and lost only S, finished the season with an 820 average—the best ever compiled. The Chicago Cubs, in 1906, won 116 games-the most ever gathered in by a major league club.

There may be a few more "rec-ords" but the ones listed here cover the field presty thoroughly, and every ball player in the bushness who deserves a niche in the hall of fame is invited to "go to it."